

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SEPIOTEUTHIS
FROM THE WEST INDIES.

BY WM. M. GABB.

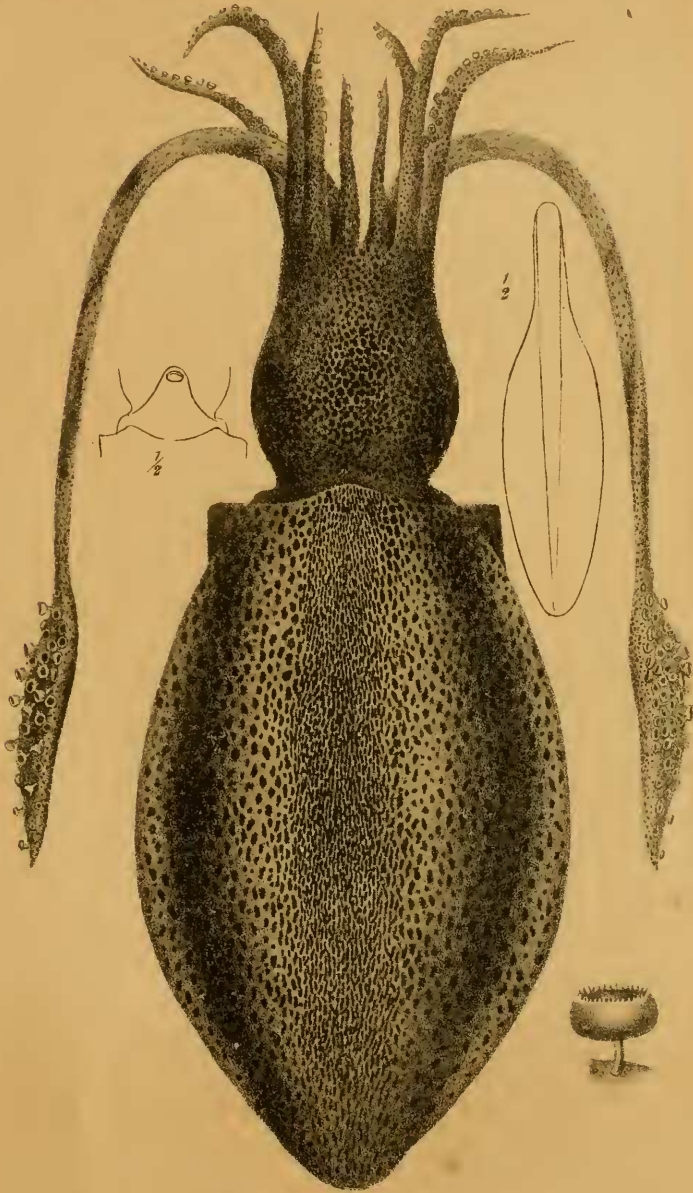
S. OVATA, Gabb. Plate 17.

Description.—Body broad, compressed; bluntly pointed below; above, dorsal margin with a rounded median point, ventral edge emarginate in the middle, and bearing two short angular projections, one on each side of the siphon. Fins narrow, regularly rounded on the margin, most prominent in the middle, and terminating a short distance from each extremity. Siphon broad at the base, flattened and conical, end blunt; aperture large, internal valve large. Head broad at the base, slightly tapering in advance, supported on a short constricted neck; eyes large; mouth small, buccal membrane well developed, without cupules. Sessile arms, the longest about half as long as the body; the dorsal and second pair very short, the third and ventral pair longer; third pair nearly twice as long as the dorsal; formula 3, 4, 2, 1; counting the dorsal as 1. These arms are laterally compressed, and each bears an irregular, double row of small cupules on a narrow face. Tentacular arms slender, subcompressed, and but slightly dilated at the club. In one specimen one arm reaches to the apex of the body, while the other arm is of about the length of the body, less the head. In another both arms are of about the latter length. This difference is probably due to a partial retraction. The club is angulated on its dorsal face, and bears on the inner side two rows of large cupules on its widest part, which become smaller, crowded and irregularly placed in advance, where there are three or four on a transverse line. Internal plate broad in the middle, regularly curved on the sides, bluntly rounded in advance, and narrow and produced behind; midrib broad, posterior extremity broadly rounded.

Locality.—Santa Cruz, West Indies. Mus. Phil. Acad. Nat. Sciences. Presented by Geo. Davidson.

Observations.—This animal cannot be confounded with *S. sepioides*, which occurs in the same waters, that species having larger rhomboidal fins and a proportionately larger head and arms. It is more like *S. Blainvilliana* from Java, but has smaller arms, with a different formula, narrower fins, though of nearly the same shape, and is much more acuminate at the base.

S. Sloanii, the only other species reported from the West Indies, is essentially different in having the shell with the margin thickened, while our species has it very thin.



Sepioleuthis ovata; Gabb.